

Message Text

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44

ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 OES-03 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5338

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 15612

DEPT PASS TO SMI FOR SECRETARY S. DILLON RIPLEY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OSCI, TBIO, IN

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN 1975 INDIA TRIP BY SECRETARY RIPLEY

REF: STATE 247273 DATED NOVEMBER 9,1974

1. NOW THAT VOLUME TEN OF THE SALIM ALI-DILLON RIPLEY BIRD HANDBOOK HAS BEEN EFFECTIVELY LAUNCHED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, WE ARE AWAITING WITH PLEASURE SECRETARY RIPLEY'S VISIT TO INDIA EARLY NEXT YEAR, AND HOPE THAT HE MAY FIND TIME TO VISIT US IN NEW DELHI.

2. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SALIM ALI IS HANDLING, APPARENTLY QUITE SUCCESSFULLY, CLEARANCES AND ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE CONCERNED PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. WE HAVE, AS YET, NO INDICATION OF ANY GOI CLEARANCE FOR THE USE OF US-OWNED RUPEES FOR THE EXPEDITION. IN VIEW OF THE RECENT UNJUST ATTACKS IN PARLIAMENT AND PRESS ON THE BOMBAY NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY--SMITHSONIAN MIGRATORY BIRD PROJECT, THE SENSITIVITY OF THE GOI TO ANY RESEARCH DONE BY FOREIGNERS IN INDIA WITHOUT EXPLICIT CENTRAL GOI APPROVAL, AND A RECENT ONE-YEAR BAN ON ALL HUNTING IN INDIA, WE SOLICIT DR. RIPLEY'S SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW TO HANDLE THIS ONE. PERHAPS THE MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD WOULD BE FOR SMITHSONIAN TO MAKE SURE THAT SALIM ALI GETS THE REQUISITE GOI APPROVAL.

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